

JAN - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

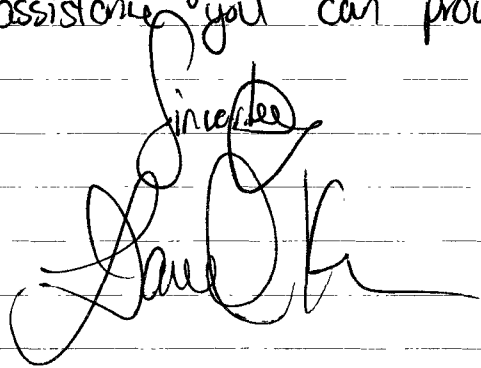
This is a Public Comment for the Wright Petition (cc docket # 96-128)

Jan 1, 2013

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I'm a Federal Inmate, I writing about how high prices of telephone calls impact myself and my family. Due to low wages here at 12¢ per hour and phones rates at 23¢ per min, it's hard to choose between soap and deodorant or calling my family. for a 15 min phone call it's \$3.45. So for one call it's a weeks worth of work. 36 hours. Asking my family to send me money is wrong because I put myself in prison, not them. But a lot of times, they send phone money anyways, therefore taking away from whatever they need.

Please do what you can to help lower the rates of our phone calls. Thank you so much for your time, and for any assistance you can provide.

Sincerely,


Daniel L.A. King
Reg # 22678-058
FCC Petersburg-Medium
PO Box 1000
Petersburg, VA
23804-1000

12/29/2012

Received & Inspected

Dear F.C.C.,

JAN - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

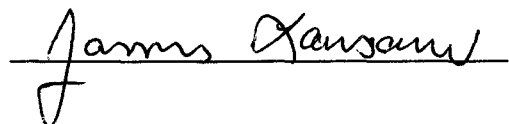
I'm writing to you in support of the **WRIGHT PETITION**.

Yes, I am a state inmate paying my debt to society in the state of Kentucky, but that fact alone is no reason that the institutional phone company can simple take advantage of inmates and their families by being aloud to charge outrageous rates for a fifteen phone call. Staying in contact with our love ones is not only the only thing inmates have, but that contact plays a critical role in ensuring we lead productive and lawabiding lives upon release. My parants, who are elderly lawabiding taxpaying citizens of our great nation, live in South Carolina. They survive on fixed incomes and simply cannot afford to pay an average of \$50.00 for three (15) minute calls each month. As of about six months ago, they simply couldn't spare the lowest required minimum of \$50.00 that **Securus Technologies** demands before removing their block. It's unfair, unamerican and literally constitutes price gauging at it's worst. From what I have determined, it's rotine practice at all correctional facilities across the country and your office has the power and **responsibility** to put a stop to these greedy phone companies who are steadily taking advantage of our nations most vulnerable and lowest income citizens. That my friend, is not right!!!

This **WRIGHT PETITION** has been before you since atleast 2003 and it's time to put your foot down and issue your ruling. I can ensure you that us inmates along with the numerous letters of support from well known and respected civil rights organization will rally to see that your **(stop-gap ORDER) will be enforced**. I'll be praying that your commission does the right thing immediately. Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Respectfully Requested,

James Lawson #154385
Little Sandy Corr. Complex
505, Prison Connector
Sandy Hook, Ky. 41171



JAN - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

January 2, 2013 - This is a public comment for the Wright Petition
"CC Docket 96-128"

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Julius Genachowski:

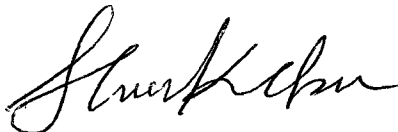
I am writing to tell you how I am negatively affected by high prison phone costs and asking you to take action on the Wright Petition to cap long-distance prison phone rates.

I am an inmate at the Florida Department of Corrections and the rates for me to call my family in Jacksonville Florida, a 15 min call, are horrendous. My ^{family} can not afford these rates, My Aunt Rosalyn her husband who is disabled.

and deal with her illness expenses.

Families just can't afford the high costs of prison phone calls. Please take action. Thank You for your time and assistance.

Most Sincerely,



Shamika Jones

LCI 959330

11120 N.W. Gainesville rd.

Ocala, Fla 34482

This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket # 96-128)

Received & Inspected

MAY - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

MR. WENDELL L. WATKINS SR., #197274

M.C.T.C.

18800 ROXBURY ROAD

HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND 21246

MR. JULIUS GENACHOWSKI, CHAIRMAN
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
445 12TH STREET, SW.
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

DEAR SIR,

THIS NOTATION IN WHICH I AM WRITING TO YOU AND YOUR COMMISSION BOARD IS ONE THAT SHOULD BE LOOKED INTO VERY CLOSE AS WELL AS INVESTIGATE DUE TO THE MONOPOLIZE OF THE PHONE COMPANY.

SIR MY FAMILY LIVES IN BALTIMORE CITY, WHICH IS THE CENTER OF BALTIMORE MARYLAND. YET, I AM INCARCERATED IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND AND AS AN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL IN HAGERSTOWN MARYLAND I AM UNABLE TO CALL MY FAMILY DUE TO THE EXTREME PHONE RATES OF 100%. IN ORDER FOR ME TO COMMUNICATE WITH MY FAMILY IT COST \$2.00 OR \$2.60 FOR THE INITIAL CALL AND .30¢ A MINUTE. FOR A THIRTY MINUTE CALL IT COST \$11.60 WHICH IS A LONG DISTANT

RATE THAT IS APPLIED TO THE INITIAL PHONE CALL WHILE I'M STILL IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

SIR I'M NOT CALLING VA, WASHINGTON, PA. NOR NORTH CAROLINA, BUT BALTIMORE CITY. I AM ASKING FOR SOMETHING TO BE DONE, BECAUSE IT SHOULD BE A LOCAL RATES WHILE IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND AND NOT \$11.60^e. AND STILL WE HAD TO PAY THE INSTITUTE (T-NOTIX)[#] 10.00 EVEN BEFORE WE CAN PLACE A CALL.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER.

SINCERELY

Mr. Wendell L. Watkins Sr., #197274
MR. WENDELL L. WATKINS SR.

12-21-12

This is a public comment For the Wright Petition (CC Docket # 96-128)

Received & Inspected

JAN - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Julius Genachowski

I am writing you concerning the high phone rates of the prisoner's phone calls. To put bluntly, it's exploitation. The phone companies are monopolizing off of the fact that we, the incarcerated, are isolated and segregated from our families and friends in society and we all have a natural tendency to connect with some family or friend that we've developed strong bonds with, thus, the phone is the most accessible means to contact them. Understanding this, the phone companies offer us nothing to have cheaper phone calls, but instead uses it as a capitalistic tool to vacuum the little funds that the inmate possesses.

I still don't understand why we're being forced to pay long distance calls to someone in Maryland when we're in a Maryland Facility.

I only get on the phone approximately 3 times a year to talk to my family, due to the economic strain it puts on my family members. This is hurtful because me and my family are close and desire to converse more frequently, but money does not allow us to do so.

Talking to family and loved ones while incarcerated serves a good purpose. It allows me to think of a world beyond the prison world, when one gets confined into an institution, over a period of time the values, code of conduct, thinking patterns and beliefs somehow gets intertwined with the inmates.

perspective and belief system and because of the prison's institutional purpose to ~~keep~~ warehouse convicted criminals, the criminal outlook and behavior becomes the normalcy of the prison world.

If we cannot converse with people who are not infected with a criminal mentality then we will develop a criminal mentality and also become more skillful at committing crimes, then we leave, ~~leave~~ re-enter into society and behave and think like an OUTLAW because there wasn't No one to go through the sifting process of removing criminal/psychotic thoughts and beliefs out of our psyche. This sifting process is done simply by conversing with people on the outside of prison who does not operate with the prisoner's value system. Conversation on the phone with loved ones is at best an alternative to violence, overdoses, poor judgement and prison recidivism.

So, with all of this said, the high prices of the phones are not just affecting the prisoner or their Family but the public in general. It is a conflict of public ~~interest~~ interest. So I appeal to you, whatever you can do to reduce the prices of prisoner's phone calls I strongly recommend it.

The safety of the nation depends on it.

Sincerely,
Jamil Ruffin

2012 Dec

MR. Gedachawski, Chairman

Received & Inspected

7 2013

FCC Mail Room

I'm a inmate in Hagerstown, MD
i am writeing to you about the
overwhelming cost of the price of
phone calls. I have 3 young children
i would love to stay in contact due
to the price of phone calls its hard
on my family to the point of my
children do not no who i am. 30¢
a min is very very over priced. I
pray something can be done. GOD Bless YOU

Contact Info

CHRISTIAN Gomes
363 918
18800 Roxbury Rd
Hagerstown, MD 21746

Received & Inspected

7/7/2013

FCC Mail Room

DEAR CHAIRMAN GENACHOWSKI:

I'M AN INMATE IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

AND I WOULD LIKE YOUR HELP ON THE HIGH

PRICES WHEN WE CALL OUR LOVED ONES

BECAUSE IT TAKES AT LEAST HALF OR ALL

OF OUR STATE PAY TO MAKE A CALL TO OUR

LOVED ONES FOR A 30 MIN. CALL, AND ~~THE~~ THERE'S

NOT ENOUGH LEFT TO PAY FOR OUR PERSONAL

NEEDS. I'M THANKING YOU IN ^{ADVANCED} ~~ADVANCED~~ FOR

YOUR HELP ON THIS MATTER ABOUT THE HIGH

TELEPHONE PRICES IN THIS STATE.

SINCERELY YOURS

KAREEM HOLLOWAY

366-851

Received & Inspected

7-7-2013

FCC Mail Room

To Whom It May Concern, + Chairman Julius Genachowski

I am writing concerning the price of the calls. I cannot afford to make a call because of the long distance cost; nor am I able to shoulder the burden of the minimum of a 10.00 voucher submission.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Jeremy Deatly
164-906

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 29TH

2012

Received & Inspected

JAN - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I ASK THAT THIS LETTER TO
BE PLACED IN THE PUBLIC FILE. MY MOTHER WAS DYING
OF A TERMINAL DISEASE AND I AM NOT ABLE TO
PLACE CALLS TO HER BECAUSE OF THE ASTRONOMICAL
PRICES THAT ARE CHARGED FOR US PRISONERS TO PLACE
CALLS TO FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES. WE ARE ALREADY
PAYING THE PRICE OF FREEDOM FOR THE CRIMES WE
COMMITTED SHOULD WE ALSO HAVE TO PAY FINANCIALLY AS
WELL. I HOPE THAT THE LAW IS PASSED SO THAT WE MAY
BE ABLE TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH OUR LOVED ONES.
REMEMBER MR. CHAIRMAN YOU ONE DAY COULD POSSIBLY HAVE
A LOVED ONE INCARCERATED, WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO BE
ABLE TO TALK TO THEM ON THE PHONE? JUST FOOD FOR
THOUGHT!

RESPECTFULLY,

TRANDY
HANKS

2012

20

ATTN: "THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE WRIGHT PETITION"(CC DOCKET # 96-123).

Received & Inspected

JAN - 7 2013

DEAR CHAIRMAN GENACHOWSKI,

FCC Mail Room

This letter is in regard to the prices the phone company charges in prison, there are alot of difference in the prices depending on where you are situated in the country & what company serves your state &/or prison.

The company I am speaking to is "GLOBAL TEL* LINK" owned by AMERICAN SECURITIES LLC, they charge alot money than the general public is charged & our (prisoner) families pay those outrageous fee's, as well as pay the taxes of our state to house prisoners', so they pay double.

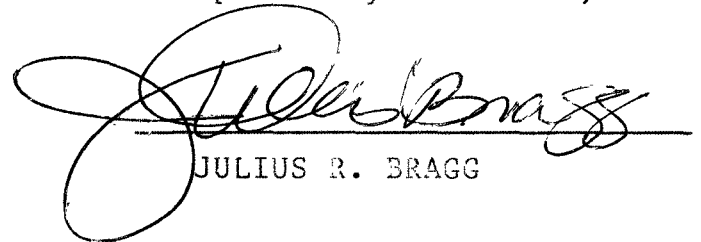
There is not enough space & I do not want to take up to much of your time, but I do want to express that a reasonable price to be able to place calls to our families who may be a few hundred miles away in the state would be good for everyone involved.

Regardless of what you have been told there is enough prisoners using the phones (in California 217,000 +) to allow the company to make a hefty profit, besides they are not hurting as they have a monopoly in California that they didn't bid on, & who knows maybe our families will buy "Oreck" vacuum cleaners they also sell as appreciation for fair treatment!

Thank You for your attention in this matter.

Dated: December 30, 2012

Respectfully submitted,



JULIUS R. BRAGG

Mailing address:

JULIUS R. BRAGG #D-35666
CSATF/SP-CORCORAN
P.O. BOX 5246 (C4-123)
CORCORAN, CA 93212

JAN - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

In The Name of Allah, The Beneficent, The Merciful.

31 Dec 2012

This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (cc Docket #96-128)

As Salaam Alaikum

(Peace be unto you)

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

May this missive find you in good spirits and health. My name is Cedric X Cal. I'm writing you in regards to the Wright petition. I hope and pray you do the right thing and make rules to lower the cost of prison phone calls. I've been incarcerated for over 20 years in Illinois. Due to the expensive collect calls I have lost very significant relationships with family and friends. I come from a poor family so having financial stability is a struggle especially now in this recession. I have not been able to call any of my family members since 2001. I have bouts with depression from such lack of communication. No one to lift my spirits. Not hearing the voice of people who love you is very tormentous in a place that keeps you isolated from society. A feeling of abandonment is prevalent in this environment. Being out of sight and not being able to call my love ones in essence of mind. So I rarely receive letters or visits cause of not being able to call home. I humbly

suggest that you do something about these predatory phone prices. Majority of prisoners are poor people. We are paying at least 5 times more for a collect call than people in free society. This is a injustice! We pay more than someone making a call to far away China! A nation is measured by the treatment of its poor people. There must be a moral outrage of these practices that undermine family and is a impediment to prisoners' rehabilitation. I hope that you consider our comments and you sit, reflect, and get up and do the right thing for the vulnerable of society. It is in your power to do. Thank you for reading my words. Peace.

Respectfully

Cedric X Cal
Cedric X Cal #654398
Stateville C.C.
P.O. Box 112
Joliet, IL 60434

SCI-Greene
175 Progress Drive
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Received & Inspected

JUN - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

November 6, 2012

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

**THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE WRIGHT PETITION
CC DOCKET #96-128**

Chairman Genachowski:

I'm writing in response to your fight to lower the high cost of phone calls from prisoners.

I'm incarcerated at SCI-Greene, Greene County, Pennsylvania. For me to call home (in-state) is \$5.41 through a pre-paid calling card sold in the prison commissary and \$6.00 to call collect (both 15 minute calls). This is simply too much money for most of my family, my support network, to afford. I have very limited contact with my family due to the excessive cost of these phone calls.

Recently, Pennsylvania transferred more than 1,000 inmates to Michigan due to overcrowding. Phone calls from MI to PA were only \$1.80 for the same 15 minute call. these are the same phone calls I try to make from Pennsylvania but can't afford, but in Michigan they were 70% cheaper. I don't understand how rates from MI to PA are 30% of the cost we pay in PA for in-state calls.

There are too many people that I can't call because they can't afford the cost. These are the same family members and friends whose support I need to have a successful reentry into society upon my release, but I'm losing my relationships with them due to the lack of interaction and contact.

I hope something can be done because it seems like all the phone company (GTL) and Department of Corrections do is take advantage of our situation.

Sincerely, Eugene A. Greener

Eugene A. Greener

Michael Crooker 03631-158
Federal Medical Center - Devens
P.O. Box 879
Ayer, MA 01432
December 29, 2012

Chairman Julius Genachowski
FCC
Public Comments
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

Received & Inspected JAN - 7 2013

JAN - 7 2013

Dear Sir:

FCC Mail Room

This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128).

Between 2005 and 2007 I was detained awaiting federal trial at the MacDougall Correctional Institution in Suffield, CT on a charge for which I was later acquitted. Suffield, CT is a border town to Southwick, MA and my mother's house in Southwick is 8 miles from the Suffield prison.

The telephones at MacDougall are run by Global Tel Link ("GTL") of Mobile, AL. GTL would charge my mother over \$20.00 for each 15-minute collect call from me. She could not afford such extortionate rates and she stopped taking my calls, and despite an advanced age of 88, she drove to the prison to talk to me through visitor's telephones because it was much cheaper to drive to an out-of-state prison than it was to accept a collect telephone call.

Later, after having been exonerated, I was held in 2010-2011 at the Wyatt Detention Facility in Central Falls, RI on a charge of having threatened the federal prosecutor from pretrial confinement in the exonerated case. Wyatt is also known by the name "Central Falls Detention Facility Corporation" and is a private, for-profit jail housing federal pretrial detainees from RI, CT and MA. Only a few of the 700 there are from RI; the bulk are from the more populous MA and CT.

Just like at MacDougall, GTL was charging at Wyatt \$20.00-\$25.00 for a 15-minute out-of-state call to CT and MA. We detainees were instructed by numerous people, including Wyatt correctional counselors, to have our family members purchase prepaid cellphones with the 401 area code, in order to circumvent the extortionate out-of-state rates. This because a local call to 401 only costed \$3.00 (as opposed to \$25.00).

The cellphone technique discussed above worked for awhile but then GTL upped the rate for a local call to \$9.57 for 20-minutes. They did this while at the same time charging RI state prisoners at the state run facilities nearby in Cranston, RI (where GTL also runs the telephones) only \$0.70 for a collect 20-minute call (or \$0.63 prepaid). The reason for the 1,050% rate difference is simple: RI state authorities have outlawed the "kickbacks" and the Wyatt privateers have not. Thus while GTL can still make a profit by

charging \$0.63 a call at the state-run facilities, they choose to extort poor families at \$9.57 for the same call placed from the Wyatt phones, and they split the ill-gotten gains with the Wyatt privateers.

This outrageousness and victimization of poor families should cease and FCC should rein in this corporate fraud and predatory behavior.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Crooker".

Michael Crooker

cc: Editor, Prison Legal News
P.O. Box 2420
West Brattleboro, VT 05303

Received & Inspected

12/28/2012

JAN - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

Dear Commissioner Pai,

We believe that the monopoly concerning the prisons and their telephone rates is abusive.

Fairness to not only the prisoners, but also the families and friends, should be considered correcting this telephone rate abuse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David & Frances May". The ink is black and the signature is fluid and connected.

David & Frances May
1812 E. Garfield Road
New Springfield, OH. 44443
Ph: 330-549-5283

Received & Inspected

DEC - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

12/28/2012

Dear Commissioner Rosenworcel,

We believe that the monopoly concerning the prisons and their telephone rates is abusive.

Fairness to not only the prisoners, but also the families and friends, should be considered correcting this telephone rate abuse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David & Frances May".

David & Frances May
1812 E. Garfield Road
New Springfield, OH. 44443
Ph: 330-549-5283

Received & Inspected

DEC - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

12/28/2012

Dear Commissioner McDowell,

We believe that the monopoly concerning the prisons and their telephone rates is abusive.

Fairness to not only the prisoners, but also the families and friends, should be considered correcting this telephone rate abuse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David & Frances May".

David & Frances May
1812 E. Garfield Road
New Springfield, OH. 44443
Ph: 330-549-5283

Received & Inspected

JAN - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

12/28/2012

Dear Commissioner Clyburn,

We believe that the monopoly concerning the prisons and their telephone rates is abusive.

Fairness to not only the prisoners, but also the families and friends, should be considered correcting this telephone rate abuse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David & Frances May".

David & Frances May
1812 E. Garfield Road
New Springfield, OH. 44443
Ph: 330-549-5283

Received & Inspected

JAN - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

12/28/2012

Dear Commissioner Genachowski,

We believe that the monopoly concerning the prisons and their telephone rates is abusive.

Fairness to not only the prisoners, but also the families and friends, should be considered correcting this telephone rate abuse.

Sincerely,

David & Frances May

David & Frances May
1812 E. Garfield Road
New Springfield, OH. 44443
Ph: 330-549-5283

Received & Inspected

JAN - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

31 December 2012

To: Chairman, Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission

From: Mr. Dante Jones - Bey
Murish
"Concerned American"

re: The Wright Petition
cc Docket # 96-128

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I am currently incarcerated in the Virginia Department of Corrections and have experienced first hand the depreave and blatantly unjust practises of these prison phone call providers. The actual prices/rates of the calls range from seven to fifteen dollars per approx. 20 minute phone call and that's in my individual circumstance. I am aware of people having to pay even more than that. However, that is just the surface level abuse that the naked eye can detect, but once you look even a little bit deeper you discover what appears to be a willful and deliberate decision on those who supposedly have oversight to protect the vulnerable from the predatory practises, are definately not working with the best

interest of the working class in mind. These phone and
Commissary Composites are being allowed to carry out an
unspoken mandate to use and abuse prisoners' families
by any means that they can get away with. When our
families complain they are routinely ignored and brushed
off as little more than collateral damage. Probably
the most devastating effect of these tactics is the
further dismantling and destruction of a family structure
that has already been devastated by the mere fact that
a family member is incarcerated and in some cases many
families have more than one loved one locked up. It
is as if the powers that be "are trying to ensure that
mentally and emotionally traumatized people have less and
less options to repair the disrupted lives of
communication between family members. The tactics
expressed briefly in this missive along with many others
not expressed destroy "bridges" that might otherwise be
prepared and leave men, women, and children mentally
and emotionally scarred and the probability of some
kind of violence, abuse, or criminal activity in general
being perpetrated by someone who has experienced such
trauma would seem to be higher. Someone has to take
a stand against these bloodsuckers of the poor, use the
people are fed up with the lip service being offered up
as solutions to problems.

Thanks in advance for your action.

JAN - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Julius Genachowski:

This is a public comment for the Wright
Petition (cc Docket # 96 128);

My name is Nadia Abdallah Salame. I'm currently serving life plus twenty years in prison. So far we served 17 yrs now; and the high toll phone rate has really destroyed me and my family and love ones from establishing a healthy relationship. The phone provides a means of another way of communication that will help meet my family's therapeutic needs. My grandmother, grandmother Salame don't have a good education so they aren't able to write. My mother died in 2002 and because of the high phone rates I never got to speak to her over the phone, not even once! All my family and love ones are back home where I'm from New Jersey. When Hurricane Sandy hit I was so stressed and worried about my family because we are from the Jersey Shore Asbury Park, Toms River, Ocean Grove etc. I haven't spoke to my grandma in over 15 yrs. None of the family can afford Global Tel Link.

high price services. Especially with America's economy up in flames...

My family is worried about how they are going to pay rent, bills, eat out these in society. So collect call or pre-paid call to them is sacrificing in order to help them in these survival in the world. It's tearing us apart, literally. My brother, both grandmothers, mother are sick. Now my grandmothers are both dying and my father might have cancer. God forbid! Everything is being taken away from me and I can't even say "Hello" or "Bye" and make my peace. I have a son who just turned 21 yrs old Dec 14th. I've been incarcerated majority of his life. Letter just isn't cutting it! I need to see him. My family needs! Alhamdulillah I have faith! My

So I pray this letter assist in your wonderful effort towards correcting an injustice.

Sincerely,
Dadik Abdullah Salaam
#1121657

Mr. Tony Ross Black
60364, L.C.C.
1200 Prison Rd.
Lovelock, NV. 89419

Received & Inspected

JAN - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

December 28, 2012.

to: Chairman Julius Genachowski

re: This is a public comment for the Wright Petition
(CC Docket 96-128)

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

The high cost of prison phone rates has specifically caused a separation between family and friends, and myself. With my parents growing older, writing letters isn't easy for them. And indeed, a long-time friend (Ms. Stone) is dying of cancer and sadly, her letters are no longer readable. We simply cannot AFFORD to stay in touch and it's INCREDIBLY FRUSTRATING!


It's no secret that NDOC receives one of the highest "kickbacks" from the Phone Company, in the nation. There is nothing that is just, dignified, or legitimate about a prison system milking money from people who want to stay in touch with imprisoned loved ones.

Please, PLEASE stop the high cost of prison phone rates. It is my family and friends that keep me sane within this harsh, broken prison system.

Thank you for your time.

I currently have 15 1/2 years in . . .

Respectfully and truly,


Mr. Tony Ross Black

Received & Inspected

JAN - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

December 30, 2012

This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128).

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

My name is Alvin Jones #881507. I am a prisoner confined in a Washington State Facility, as a boarder from the state of Maryland.

I have been here since May of 2005. I am writing to you because I was reading my prison legal news, December issue, which has a public announcement calling for a crusade against prison phone injustice.

My personal experience has been this: Washington Department of Corrections uses a contractor for phone service called Value Added Communications, which I believe gives D.O.C. a kick back. I say this because we are charged a flat rate of \$3.61 per 19 minute phone call we make. I am charged \$23.00 to call out of state to either Maryland or California for a 19 minute phone call. They told us that long distance calls would be reduced last year, but when I called my daughter they had not reduced the cost as they said they had. It was still \$23.00, because they have a system in place on the phones where we can check the cost of our last call, and I did this after I was finished with my phone call.

Aside from this, the phone system that is used frequently disconnects or simply drops our calls for no apparent reason, causing us to have to re-dial and pay another \$3.61 to talk to our families. V.A.C. has a number set up for our families to call and complain about dropped calls, and they say that if our calls are dropped on a land line they will refund the cost, but if it is a cell phone they won't refund it. Well, on several occasions my wife has contacted V.A.C. with the time and the date that our call was dropped and V.A.C. has simply refused to reimburse us for the dropped calls. They are fleecing us for all this money, and yet they won't honor their agreements to be responsible for system failures with their system.

Our loved ones feel victimized by D.O.C. and V.A.C. for the sky high phone rates that we are forced to pay if we want to call home and speak to our families. Our families are struggling enough financially, as most of them are single parent homes taking care of children. This should not be allowed to continue and I ask that something be done on behalf of the families of men and women who

are in prison, trying desperately hard not to be a burden on our families, who should not be penalized just for wanting to maintain contact with us.

On behalf of myself and my family, I thank you in advance for any relief you can bring in resolving this matter.

Sincerely,

Alvin Jones

Alvin Jones #881507
FW-225 / Washington
State Penitentiary
1313 N. 13th Ave.
Walla Walla, WA 99362

JUL - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

This is a public comment for the
Wright petition (CC Docket # 96-128)

This letter is to inform whom ever it may concern of the financial strain to my family pertaining to phone call costs in W.A. State Correctional facilities. It is my hope to change the call cost to a more affordable rate.

Currently phone calls for local phone numbers is \$3.60 for 20 minutes. A \$25.00 minimal limit is in effect for anyone who would like to add money to an inmates account. During these tough economical times many families are hard pressed to finance regular or even sporadic phone calls during an inmates sentence.

Inmates are more likely to rehabilitate and program when they are in regular contact with their "support group". I.E. family, children, friends and such. It is my understanding that rehabilitation is important to D.O.C. Anything to support this can only be a positive change to the current policy.

It is my hope that this letter stated a reasonable resolution to a problem that effects many in W.A. State Correctional facilities. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Sean Alexander

Richard Martinez
9503 Rives Ave.
Downey, CA 90240
December 29, 2012

Received & Inspected

DEC - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 12-375

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to express my support for the First Wright Petition as well as the Alternative Wright Petition. As an ordinary citizen with basic knowledge of the telecommunications industry, I will itemize my responses to the points outlined in your notice of proposed rulemaking. And at the end of my letter, I will provide my responses/comments regarding this very important matter on a general level.

Point #18: Per-call charges should be eliminated. Prison is a dynamic environment where a prisoner doesn't know whether their phone privileges will end in 10 seconds or in 10 minutes. The per-call set up capriciously extolls a sizeable penalty the second the receiver is picked up on the call's receiving end. If the per minute rates were comparable to open market (residential) rates I could almost understand the per-call charge. However, given that the per-minute charges are higher than the free markets AND yet there is an additional per-call charge, these providers truly get you coming and going as the saying goes. To be blunt, the FCC is asking the wrong questions by asking whether elimination of the per-call charge will help ensure just/reasonable ICS rates, as well as result in low quality calling. As a consumer in the open market, I have had many different service providers (traditional, internet, cable) and I've NEVER noticed a difference in call quality regardless of the varying prices for each provider.

Point #19: Per call charges should be eliminated, Period. If the commission fails to eliminate per-call charges, this measure (per-call charge should definitely be maintained for a set period) is a no-brainer and should of course be instituted.

Point #20: I fully agree that rate caps need to be established (though I feel even the proposed caps are still too high). Residential/Retail calling rates should be used as a baseline/benchmark (with some kind of adder if needed) when evaluating rate caps to be used. Without question, the rate caps should apply to both publicly and privately administer facilities (I can't comprehend how any divergence here can be justified). Inmates and/or their families do NOT get to choose what kind of institution to serve in and therefore the framework should be the same in both types.

Item #23: Residential/Retail calling rates should be used as a baseline/benchmark when evaluating rate caps. ICS will likely attempt to claim added costs and thus justify recoverability of such costs further driving up prices without a true/real business reason/societal benefit. I would take any isolated "job-costing" structure proposed by any petitions with a grain of salt, unless they provided 100% transparency to ALL their cost (i.e., entire cost structure) otherwise it is simply a shell game where they show the same cards to multiple parties out of convenience. The open market has shown us how fast prices can drop amid increasing level of service/coverage/quality where a truly competitive environment exists. (I refuse to believe that the infrastructure ICS operates in is more complex than the mobile infrastructure, yet

mobile rates are lower and continue to decline despite the fact that the mobile market is for all intents-and-purposes an oligopoly).

Item #25: I don't agree with ICS' proposed methodology (refer to point #18 above).

Item #37: Of course commissions should be treated as profit. Commissions are nothing more than an excess charge (above and beyond market rates) that goes to someone and has NOTHING to do with the level/quality of services/goods provided.

Item #39: No cost calling would be a very nice/beneficial amendment that would truly underscore the goals of our institutions (rehabilitation) as well as help families stay connected despite the many challenges of the system.

Item #46: There should absolutely be no transition period. This reform has dragged on long enough. These vendors have profited plenty from the current setup, they can most certainly afford some leaner months while they learn to operate in the more competitive/open environment that should've been the norm all along.

In general, I'd like to mention how absurd I find commenters that cite the size of the institution or volume as a factor in their current price structure. One needs look no further than the current residential pricing structure to see past such ludicrous arguments. The open market that is available to the rest of us means I pay the same rate as my neighbor (assuming the same carrier/plan) regardless of who uses the phone more. What's more, we even have multiple plans by each provider (i.e., the competitive environment gives customers the ability to choose services that closer align with their needs, while the vendors find ways to remain profitable while offering a host of plans (this despite not having the captive market that ICS operators have)).

With regards to site commissions, I must ask, what is this anyhow? To me, this sounds like little more than an incentive to rig the contract process by essentially asking for "juice" as the price of entry to a monopoly (sounds pretty enticing to me) – thereby unnecessarily driving up the price of services. Facilities should not request nor receive a commission for any service – all this does is distort the pricing. Consider the fact that prisons are not an open/free market. As a society that believes as strongly in punitive justice as we do here in the US, people need to accept the costs associated with this level of 'justice' and we need to fund prisons via our tax dollars, rather than allow them to make profits by colluding with companies to extort monies from prisoners and their families.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration and ask that you please contact me if you have any follow on questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Martinez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard Martinez
310-343-8445

JAN - 7 2013

FCC Rep,

FCC Mail Room

I just saw that you are trying to help inmates keep in touch with their families by lowering these "sky high" prices inmates, and their ~~families~~ families, pay for a phone call.

I am requesting information about this since I call home once to twice a week as I can afford.

Thank you from all us inmates.

Truly
Yours
Daniel Gregor

Daniel Gregor
KK-0118
1000 Follies Rd.
Dallas, TX 75212

This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket # 96-128)

Received & Inspected

Dear Chairman GENACHOWSKI

JAN - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

my name is Terrell CORNELIUS and I'm in prison in North Carolina at Albermarle correctional institution and my mother lives 45 minutes away and she has to pay \$3.30 a call and I don't think that is fair. she's spending \$400 a month on phone calls and that's entirely much money, some people pay that in rent every month. Even though we're in prison we should still have the right to call our love one without it putting a dent in their pockets

Thank you
Terrell Cornelius

JAN - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

December 30, 2012

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20534

Re: Public Comment for the Wright Petition
(cc Docket #96-128)

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

This is a public comment for the Wright
Petition (CC Docket #96-128).

I have been an inmate at the Central Utah
Correctional Facility since April 24, 2009. My family
pays nearly \$18.00 for a 30 minute phone call as they
live in the Baltimore/Washington D.C. area.

When I was on the streets, long distance was free.
Not only was it free, phone companies were offering
inexpensive packages and free incentives to use their
service.

My family is forced to pay these outrageous phone
costs because they have NO CHOICE! That in
itself is illegal as phone companies were broken up to
prevent monopolization.

These outrageous and illegal phone costs are paid

because loving families have NO CHOICE!
New phone companies pop up every day. I'm sure
one of them would be happy to provide competitive
Service.

Stop the Abuse and thievery now.

My family is Tired of being a victim,

Stephen Rippey

Stephen Rippey
Inmate # 188454
Housing Unit Gale F 9
Central Utah Correctional Facility
P.O. BOX 530
Gunnison, UTAH 84634-0530

P.S. - IF you receive this, it's a miracle.
IF it's opened, it's a crime.

Received & Inspected

JAN 07 2013

12-~~FOO~~ Mail Room

Chairman Julius Genachowski,
Federal Communication Commission

"This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128)."

My concern is about the high cost of prison phone calls. My journey started in Jan. 2007 in Houston, Tx.. Due to a drug conspiracy case in Springfield, MA.. I spent 14 days in Houston jail then was taken to Ludlow MA.. And I was there from Jan. to June and with this being my first time locked up and away from my family, I was afraid. So I would call home 2 to 3 times a day not knowing the phone calls were 24.⁰⁰ plus each call. Until my family got the first bill of 500.⁰⁰, then I knew I had to cut back on calling. I made bond in June and was on pre-trial until Nov. 2010. I am now at Bryan Federal Prison Camp where phone calls are 3.⁴⁵ so I limit myself to calling my sister and son to once a week. And my mother and other family members to every once and a while. Being in the federal prison they don't supply anything other than 3 meals a day. Everything else has to be purchased on commissary such as hygiene, hair & beauty aid, medication, shoes, office supplies and laundry supplies. Prison system has become a prison industrial complex where it's all about the dollars. Not about reforming and keeping families in touch as much as possible. Please help to make the right changing in the high cost of prison phone calls. So inmates can stay in touch and be apart of their family especially the ones that have children. Thank you with this issue.

Brenda Good #98615-179

Chairman Julius Genachowski
FCC
Public Comment

Received & Inspected 12/31/12
JAN - 7 2013
FCC Mail Room

I am an inmate at FMWCC in Las Vegas NV. In the past week a notice was posted that air phone rates will dramatically be raise. Local calls are currently \$1.95 for 30 mins. As of Feb 1, 2013 the rates will go up to \$4.90 for 30 mins. My family is not local. The rates are even higher to call Reno. \$2.49 to connect and 49¢ a min.

The economy is bad. I understand that. At the same time this is grossly unfair - not just to inmates also to our families. Inmates may have done things to end up in prison. That does not mean we are any less a part of our families and much need to stay in contact.

I am writing this asking for help. With the rates going so high I will only be able to call my mother and three children once a week. Instead of almost daily.

Thank you for your time
Jennifers Haake
Jennifer Haake
#1028085
FWCC
4370 Smiley Rd
Las Vegas NV 89115

Received & Inspected

12/11/2013

December 31, 2012

FCC Mail Room Sean Hannon KG-3564

1600 Watters Mill Rd.

Somerset, Pa. 15510

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC. 20554

RE: This is a public comment for the
Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128)

Dear Chairman Genachowski;

The high cost of phone calls within the Pennsylvania Prison System, at both the County and State levels, has severely restricted my ability to remain connected with my young children and family. Our state and county prisons get a financial kickback on all the money made by prisoners phone calls, but also charge state taxes on the purchase of prisoner phone-time. This is double-dipping.

Something should, and must be done to stop these abuses, most of us are in prison because someone was victimized, why then, is it legal for us and our families to be victimized by the prison system? Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Sean Hannon

Received & Inspected

JAN - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

this is a public comment for the Wright petition 12-30-12
(cc Docket #96-128)

DEAR CHAIRMAN BENACHOWSKI:

my NAME IS MANUEL RIZMIREZ AND im in MOSHANNON VALLEY
CORRECTION CENTER. I HAVE BEEN in this prison FOR 9 month
AND the MONEY my FAMILY HAVE spend is too much
there is 300 minute AND if you then you spend 90 DOLLAR
of your money. imagin most of all people callin they
parent me callin my wife AND kids, AND my mother
AND my sister. AND the people the come to visit me
I HAVE to call them for Apreciation. I think
something HAVE to be DONE About it.

PLEASE TAKE this letter in consideration

THANK you AND God bless you

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

JAN - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

Received & Inspected

JAN - 7 2013

FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

This is a public comment for CC Docket #96-128 (the Wright Petition).

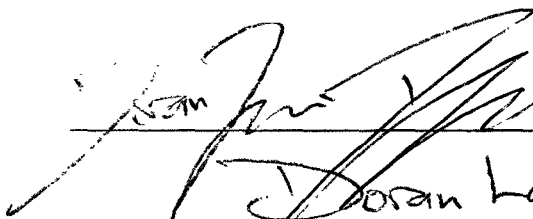
I am writing this letter to encourage the Federal Communications Commission to take the necessary action to curb the excessive rates of prisoner collect calls. These rates serve to discourage contact between prisoners and their families, which is counterproductive to the goal of maintaining family ties.

Additionally, there is a real issue surrounding these phone rates that deal with the kickbacks state departments of correction and other entities are receiving as part of these inflated and unjustified rates. It is a real hardship for me to be able to communicate with my loved ones who are incarcerated because of these rates.

Prison collect call rates need to be dramatically lowered.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Doran Larson
198 College Hill Rd.
Clinton, NY 13323

1/1/13

Received & Inspected

NOV - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

Chairman Julius Genachowski

Federal Communication Commission

Public Comments

445 12th Street, SW

Dec. 29, 2012

Washington, DC 20554

Re: This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket # 96-128)

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

My name is Roger Blackstock and I've been incarcerated for 29 yrs within the confines of various N.C. prisons. I spent 2 yrs, and 2 months in an out of state prison in Tenn. when this state became overcrowded and sent many of us to private prisons.

Sir, my purpose for writing your office is, I, like thousands of other N.C. prisoners have been subjected to outrageous and unfair phone call prices. Up until Nov. 1, 2012 I could not call any one in my family because they could not afford the outrageous phone bills. When one has been in prison as long as I have, family and communication is most important to maintaining one's sanity. I've often wondered why should prisoners have to pay more for phone rates than the public. The highest pay wages in this system is one dollar a day and the lowest is .40 cent and .70 in the middle of the pay system. This state has now gone to a Debit system and the rates are still overbarren to those that don't get money from home. One local call cost 1.21 and a long distance call in the same County and area code cost almost \$4.00.

(2)

Just a few years ago the Prison Dept. was boasting how they made over 5 million dollars off the Inmate phone system. Is this the reason the rates are so high, because the State has to get their cut for allowing the phones in their prisons?

Sometimes the phone will just cut off in the middle of a conversation and the money has been taken out of your account for a full 15 minute call when you've only talked 7 or 8 mins. My mother is on a fixed income and the only way I can call her is direct through this Debit system. I only make \$7.00 a week and I hope there is something the FCC can and will do to change these phone rates.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Roger Blackstock #033006

444 County Home Rd.

Blanch, NC, 27212

Received & Inspected

JAN - 7 2013

12/30/12

FCC Mail Room *Sunday*

Dear Mr. Genactecowsk

I'm writing you in regards of the extremely high rates on "GTL" (Global-Tel Link) phone calls. My family finds it very difficult to not only set-up an account but to maintain it's \$7.00 dollar mandatory connection fee. Nonetheless, inmates that are bless to afford the costly rates still aren't satisfied due to the needed repairs to the phones, many of the phones are not being used because you can't hear on them. The money that's being demanded for communication with my family doesn't match the poor service they provide. Mr. Genactecowsk, I appreciate you acknowledging this injustice and I wish you success on your journey to right this wrong. THANK YOU

Sincerely
Duangza Johnson
DeVonza Johnson #117233

Received & Inspected

JAN -7 2013

FCC Mail Room

Dec. 30, 2012

W

MS. PATRICIA WEDMORE
9016 Cowenton Ave.
Perry Hall, MD 21128

Chairman Julius Giesachowski
Federal Communications Commission

Dear Sir,

My brother, Dale J. Healy is a prisoner in Dallas Correction Center in Pennsylvania. He phones me twice a week; it is my only communication with him. I can no longer visit due to back surgery. One fifteen minute call cost \$ 9.35, this price is outrageous. I can call my daughter in California every day for a month and it does not cost this much.

Global Tel Link Communication Services is the prison phone company. You must have a pre-paid account or you can't receive a call.

The company sends no bills. They tell you to go on the internet. I have no computer so I have no way to know if they are billing me correctly. They have a number to call but it only tells you how much money is in your account. I think this is unfair and possibly illegal. The prison is punishing the relatives, not the prisoners. He would appreciate it, if you could look into this.

Thank you.

Patricia Wedmore

W O F F I C E O F
MICHAEL K. SUTHERLIN
& ASSOCIATES, P.C.

MICHAEL K. SUTHERLIN

Certified Mediator

PRACTICE AREAS

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CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
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SEVERANCE AGREEMENTS
- AGE, RACE, SEX,
RELIGION & DISABILITY
DISCRIMINATION
- WRONGFUL DISCHARGE
- FEDERAL & STATE COURT
LITIGATION AND APPEALS

PO BOX 441095
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46244-1095

334 N SENATE AVENUE
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

PHONE (317) 634-6313
FACSIMILE (317) 631-8818
E-Mail msutherlin@gmail.com

An Association Not a Partnership

Received & Inspected

JAN 07 2013

FCC Mail Room

December 28 , 2012

FCC
445 12th Street Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20536

Re: Review of Prison Phone Call Toll Charges

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing this letter because I recently read in the New York Times that your agency was reviewing the widespread universal practice of charging exorbitant costs to family and friends who wish to call offenders who are incarcerated either in prison or in the jails. This practice has been around for at least 20 years and is now considered a revenue stream for prisons and jails. It is not only offensive but it seems just mean. Along with exorbitant charges for commissary costs, co-payments for medical visits and costs for over-the-counter medications that are prescribed. One is hard pressed to see how our prison system is anything but universally oppressive.

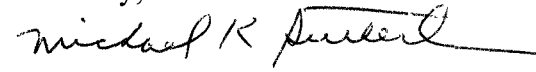
The article in the New York Times correctly described it as a kickback. The charges, which sometimes amount to \$3.00 or \$4.00 for 15 minutes or more, are very hard on families who are poor and who count every nickel and dime of their budget. Sometimes it's the only way to communicate given the long distances the families must travel.

There have been many legal challenges to these toll charges and I'm not aware of any successful plaintiffs. There have been various theories advanced including breach of contract and anti-trust theories. It seems to me that the only successful approach would be a federal regulation prohibiting such exorbitant costs.

As you might expect this makes it more difficult for reentry, rehabilitation, and connecting with family and friends, which are the main support groups that an offender would rely upon once released from

prison or jail. You should find plenty of very capable witnesses to testify when you begin to hold these hearings. I would appreciate a reply but it is not necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael K. Sutherlin".

Michael K. Sutherlin

Dear

Chairman Julius W. Brown

Received & Inspected

JAN - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

Hello, my name is Terry Little I'm an inmate at Lebanon Correctional Institution, not how I feel the longer I stay here the more I feel like I'm in a cage. To get right to the point for the purpose of this letter, I'm writing is the same as every other inmate in this facility who does not live in the U.S. Because I don't have family in this country, my phone calls are five dollars a month. Call my cell pay is \$16 a month, so I can barely afford one phone call.

The system we use here is called global tel link, the rate I pay is \$16 a month. One I read in Ohio I was sent to this district by the state. Two, why should I pay 5 dollars a month for phone calls when people who are from this district their phone calls are only one dollar. Because the state sent me to this facility I can't call my family. Three, I can't even call my family on holidays because my phone calls are \$16, this issue arise from the fact that, this phone system takes my money even if my caller doesn't answer.

If I get the answering machine to the person I'm calling the system takes my money though no one picks up.

There making money regardless, though it's a privilege, why sell it and not everyone is getting

there money worth by forfeiting an accomplishment
in getting in touch with there family fairly.
Could you please help resolve this issue

Sincerely
Mr. CHIE 562207

JAN - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room 12/30/12

To: Chairman Julius Genachowski:

This is a public comment for LC Docket #96-128 (the Wright Petition.) My name is John Pierce Jr, and I've been incarcerated since Aug 09 and I still have 10 years left to do in prison. I left a wife of 14yrs and 2 children out there and financially I was the breadwinner. I am currently incarcerated in Buckingham Corrections in VA and my children are 2 hours away. The only way I am able to contact them is at my mother's home because they have cell phones and it's extremely difficult to constantly keep in touch with them. My mother pays \$5.50 for 20 min and I may get 6 calls a month and only talk to my children twice a month. They are now 16 and 18 and with one in college, I may contact her if possible on when she's at my mother's for the holidays. This is the 1st year since my incarceration that I was unable to speak to either of them, mostly due because my mother couldn't afford to place

money on the phone to call. Something must be done to reduce the rates by Global-Tel-link and there should be a mandate that allows us the call cell phones because home phone lines are becoming more and more obsolete. Reaching my children by phone is become harder and harder and it's so frustrating because I know they need to hear my voice just for encouragement out there in the world.

Yours Truly,

John Pierce Jr.

#1362333

Buckingham Correctional Center
P.O. Box 430
Dillwyn, VA 23936

JAN - 7 2013

FCC Mail Room

THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT
FOR THE WRIGHT PETITION
(CC DOCKET # 96-1248)

DEAR MR. JULIUS GENACHOWSKY,

I'm CURRENTLY INCARCERATED
AND AM WRITING THIS LETTER ON
BEHALF OF MYSELF AND MANY
OTHERS LIKE ME, IN REFERENCE
TO THE HIGH COST OF THE PRISON
PHONE CALLS WHICH ARE UTTERLY
RIDICULOUS. ALOT OF US OR ARE
FAMILY MEMBERS CAN'T AFFORD
TEN DOLLARS PER CALL, FOR FIFTEEN
MINUTES. IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY
SENSE FOR OUR PHONE CALLS TO BE
THAT MUCH. I UNDERSTAND THE
ECONOMY IS BAD, BUT SOMETHING
NEEDS TO BE DONE ALOT OF US CAN'T
EVEN CALL OUR LOVED ONES BECAUSE
OF THIS. SINCERLY, Lamar Butler